

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-19 are now present in the application. The drawings and claims 2-29 have been amended. Claims 1, 19 and 29 are independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Priority Under 35 U.S.C. §119

Applicants thank the Examiner for acknowledging Applicants' claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. §119, and receipt of the certified priority document.

Information Disclosure Citation

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the references supplied with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on July 17, 2006, and for providing Applicants with an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 form filed therewith.

Drawings Objections

The drawings have been objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a). Applicants have submitted one (1) sheet of corrected formal drawings to address the Examiner's requested changes. In particular, the journalising means is shown in FIG. 3 as the EMP, and the electronic mail manager database is shown in FIG. 3 as the EMM-DB. In addition, the notification scheduler has been added in FIG. 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this

objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 7-10, 14, 16, 17, 25 and 27 been objected to due to the presence of minor informalities. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been obviated and/or rendered moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection has been addressed. In addition, the terms “journalising means”, “notification scheduler” and “electronic mail manager database” are disclosed on page 8, line 1-14 (for the notification scheduler and the journalising means) and page 12, lines 1-11 (for the electronic mail manager database) of the specification. Accordingly, all pending claims are now definite and clear. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 & 103

Independent Claim 1, 19 and 29 and their dependent claims 2-8, 17, 20, 21 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Misra, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2006/0031357. Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra. Claims 11-16, 18, 22-26 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Misra in view of the secondary reference(s). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements including “[a]n electronic mail management system for handling electronic mail in a shared multiple user environment, in which the users' incoming electronic mail are sent and received from external correspondents, said system includes a common mail server with a central storage wherein electronic mail items of the users are stored and may be retrieved, said system comprising: detecting means for monitoring the flow of in- and outbound electronic mails on the mail server for a specified set of users, and intercepting the in- and outbound e-mails; journalising means for creating a notification record of a set of e-mail information data for each of the intercepted electronic mails; an electronic mail manager database (EMM DB) for storing said notification records and the associated electronic mails in a relation database so that the notification records and the associated electronic mails are accessible for the users in the multiple users environment by a search query; and means for establishing a journal of electronic mails from the notification records in the electronic mail management database by defining a search request query and submitting said search request to a search engine for selecting a user-defined series of information data from the notification records in the electronic mail management database.”

Independent claim 19 recites a combination of steps including “[a] method of journalising electronic mail in a shared multiple user environment, in which the users' incoming electronic mail are sent and received from external correspondents, said system includes a common mail server with a central storage wherein electronic mail items of the users are stored and may be retrieved, said method comprising: monitoring the flow of in- and outbound electronic mails on the mail server to and from the server users, and intercepting at least a selection of the in- and outbound e-mails, creating a notification record of a set of e-mail information data for each intercepted electronic mail, and storing said notification records and the associated electronic mails in an electronic mail manager relation database (EMM DB) so that the notification records and the associated electronic mails are accessible for the users in the multiple users environment by a search query; establishing a user-specific journal of e-mails from the notification records in the electronic mail management database (EMM DB) by defining a search request query and submitting said search request to a search engine for selecting a user-defined series of information data from the notification records in the electronic mail management database.”

Independent claim 29 recites a combination of elements including “[a] computer usable medium having computer-readable program code means providing an e-mail management system for journalising electronic mail in a shared multiple user environment, in which the users' incoming electronic mail are sent and received from external correspondents, said system includes a common mail server with a central storage wherein electronic mail items of the users are stored and may be retrieved, said computer-readable program code comprising: computer program code means for providing detecting means for monitoring the flow of in- and outbound electronic mails on the mail server to and from the server users, and intercepting at least a

selection of the in- and outbound e-mails; computer program code means for providing journalising means for creating a notification record of a set of e-mail information data for each intercepted electronic mail, and storing said notification records and the associated electronic mails in an electronic mail manager relation database (EMM DB) for storing at least said notification record and each electronic mail in a manner accessible for the users in the multiple users environment, so that the notification records and the associated electronic mails are accessible for the users in the multiple users environment by a search query; computer program code means for providing means for establishing a user-specific journal of e-mails from the notification records in the electronic mail management database (EMM DB) by defining a search request query and submitting said search request to a search engine for selecting a user-defined series of information data from the notification records in the electronic mail management database.”

Applicants respectfully submit that the above combinations of elements and steps as set forth in independent claims 1, 19 and 29 are not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner for the following reasons.

U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/574,267

Misra is filed on May 25, 2005 and claim the priority on the U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/574,267 (hereinafter the ‘267 Provisional Application) filed on May 26, 2004.

On the other hand, the foreign priority date of the present invention (filed in English and therefore no verified English translation is necessary) is August 31, 2004, which is earlier than the U.S. filing date of Misra. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that **only** the contents

disclosed in the '267 Provisional Application may be relied on by the Examiner.

Shared User Environment v. Single User Environment

Misra discloses a traditional mail management system, wherein an electronic mail is delivered to the individual user's mailbox. In the system, means for additional storing of the mail is provided. Misra in paragraph 0073 defines the term "User" as follows: "A "User" in this document refers to a typical user of the organizations messaging system (e.g. employee). Additional privileges may be accorded to others such as administrators or operators." A typical user of a traditional messaging system does not have access to any messages other than the user's own messages. Correspondingly, the messages in the mail management system disclosed in Misra are not shared between the users.

Unlike Misra, in the present invention, an electronic mail management (EMM) system for handling electronic mail in a *shared multiple user environment* is disclosed. This EMM system marks the end of the traditional mailbox paradigm, in which the emails are delivered to the mailbox of the users. In the EMM system according to the present invention, the individual users of the EMM system access the e-mails in the EMM database by performing a number of search queries. Furthermore, The '267 Provisional Application of Misra, filed on May 26, 2004, at page 4 discloses one of the key characteristics: "3. Controlled access - *Prevents* users from seeing others e-mail." This strongly indicates that at the time the foreign priority application on which the present application claims priority was filed (August 31, 2004), the concept of a shared multiple user environment was not perceived in relation to an electronic mail management.

Functionality of Gateway

Misra in paragraph 0037 discloses the principles of the messaging system as follows:

The invention is based on the principle of intercepting messages before they arrive in the corporate e-mail system, using an e-mail gateway. E-mail is proactively pushed to an archive (network storage) as compared with a pull approach that pulls messages out of the mail-server. Using this push approach, the e-mail gateway sends or writes an e-mail message as a flat file to a designated network storage resource. The push model delivers an easy means to reduce the e-mail load on both servers and users, and with a proper replay system, can provide quick and easy access to archived e-mails.

Therefore, the system disclosed in Misra captures the e-mails before they enter the e-mail system or the email archive. Furthermore, regarding the infrastructure of the e-mail messaging system, Misra in paragraph 0042 discloses as follows:

Upon receiving, but before accepting, an incoming electronic message the message transport will preferably perform a three-way handshake with both the message server and the data storage device to verify the readiness of each to accept the message. This is so that the embodiment will not accept a message that the message server is not prepared to deliver or that the data storage device cannot archive.

Therefore, the system disclosed in Misra interferes with the infrastructure of the corporate e-mail messaging system and an error in Misra's system can possibly halt the flow of e-mails in the corporate e-mail messaging system, which is catastrophic for any corporation or company. The system of the claimed invention differs in the way that the flow of e-mails is monitored on the mail server and therefore no interference with, or change of, the infrastructure of the e-mail messaging system.

Relation Database

Misra in paragraph 0037 discloses the handling of messages in the e-mail gateway as follows: "the email gateway sends or writes an e-mail message as a flat file to a designated

network storage resource." The structure of the flat files and how to locate the flat files in the e-mail archive are described by the Message Map defined in paragraph 0070 of Misra as follows: "[a] Message Map is data contained in the archive database record that specifies the exact location of each of the various parts of an archived message." An example of how to access a message in the e-mail archive is described in paragraphs 0094 and 0095 of Misra:

If the User chooses to preview a message at step 52, he/she must first select the specific message to be previewed at step 54. The system must then go to the record in the database in order to read the Message Map 48.

The List Process then identifies the specific record in the Archive Database relating to the message to be previewed, at step 56, and by reading the structural description contained in the Message Map 48 in the database record identifies where within the archived file the content to be displayed is located.

This location process is cumbersome. The present invention differs in that the e-mails are stored in a relation database, whereby the e-mails are accessible for the users in the multiple user environment by a search query.

Although Misra in paragraph 0092 discloses a relational database, wherein the Message Map is integrated in the relational database along with metadata for each message, this paragraph was not part of the '267 Provisional Application filed May 26, 2004, and a relational database is not mentioned or disclosed in the '267 Provisional Application on which Misra claims the priority. On the contrary, the troublesome procedure of storing messages in the archive as flat files and associating a message map with each flat file implies that *the concept of a relation database was not perceived at the time of filing of the present invention.* The relational database was first mentioned in Misra filed May 25, 2005, which is **after** the foreign priority date of the present invention (August 31, 2004).

Since Misra is filed after the foreign priority date of the present invention (filed in English and therefore no verified English translation is necessary) and the relational database relied on by the Examiner is not disclosed in this Provisional Application No. 60/574,267 for which Misra claims the priority, the relational database disclosed in Misra cannot be used against the present application.

The Replay Services

The services provided by Misra's system evolve around the message replay system for archived e-mail (referred to as the "Replay System"). Misra in paragraphs 0042-0053 discloses the Replay System. More particular, Misra in paragraph 0042 introduces the Replay System as follows:

The system and method of the invention will generally be implemented by retrieving e-mail from an archival storage, and "replaying" the messages through an existing corporate messaging system. It includes the ability to preview archived messages and redeliver one or more messages to a designated user's mailbox.

The Replay System provides four main services: Redeliver, Reply, Forward and Preview. The Redeliver Service (see paragraph 0046) provides the option of re-delivering a message from the e-mail archive to a designated users e-mail mailbox. Therefore, the Redeliver Service merely repeats the process of delivering an e-mail to a mailbox. There is no way a user can redeliver any other e-mails in the archive *other than the e-mails that have already been sent to him*.

The Reply Service (see paragraph 0048) provides the option of replying to a message directly from the e-mail archive "without the need to first have it re-delivered to an inbox," thereby indicating that only messages that has already once been delivered to the users inbox can be replied to. Therefore, there is no way a user can reply to any other e-mails in the archive *other*

than the e-mails that have already been sent to him.

The Forward Service (see paragraph 0050) provides the option of forwarding a message directly from the email archive, but only offers the same functionality as the Reply Service. Therefore,, there is no way a user can forward any other e-mails in the archive *other than the e-mails that have already been sent to him.*

The Preview Service (see paragraph 0052) provides the option of preview a message directly from the email archive and “users are able to replay the message (including Redeliver, Reply, and Forward) directly from a Preview window.” Because the functionality of the Redeliver, Reply and Forward services are provided in the Preview service, the access restrictions are the same. Therefore, there is no way a user can preview any other e-mails in the archive *other than the e-mails that have already been sent to him.*

The Replay Process is furthermore explained in paragraph 103 of Misra with reference to FIG. 5, as follows: “[a]t step 88, the Replay Process then prepares the archived message for re-delivery back to the user.” In other words, a Replay Process includes the step of repeating a delivery of an e-mail back to a user, i.e., repeating a process that has already been carried out by the normal messaging system.

Therefore, *the Replay System provided in Misra's system does not provide a user access to any other e-mails in the e-mail archive other than the e-mails that have already been sent to him.* This traditional mailbox paradigm of delivering e-mails to one or more mailboxes does not exist in the present invention, since the received and sent e-mails are detected and delivered to the e-mail manager database and are *actually not forwarded to the individual users mailboxes.* Instead, the individual users of the EMM system access the e-mails in the EMM database by

performing a number of search queries. The unique advantage of the e-mail management system according to the present invention allows for an infinite number of ways of retrieving e-mails contrary to the traditional systems (including the system disclosed in Misra) that only support one way of retrieving e-mails, i.e., direct delivery to a mailbox.

Applicants respectfully submit that, in the claimed invention as set forth in claims 1, 19 and 29, the e-mails are handled in a shared multiple user environment, the e-mails are monitored on the mail server and the e-mails are stored in a relation database. None of the abovementioned features are disclosed in the '267 Provisional Application for which Misra claims the priority. Misra simply discloses a traditional mail management system. Unlike Misra, an electronic mail is delivered to the individual user's mailbox. In the claimed invention, the individual users of the system access the e-mails in a relation database by performing a number of search queries.

With regard to the Examiner's reliance on the secondary references, these references have only been relied on for their teachings related to some dependent claims. These references also fail to disclose the above combinations of elements and steps as set forth in independent claims 1, 19 and 29. Accordingly, these references fail to cure the deficiencies of Misra.

Accordingly, none of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of independent claims 1, 19 and 29 or their dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1, 19 and 29 and their dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

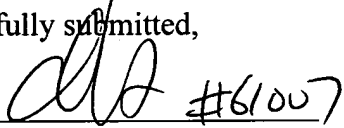
It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Cheng-Kang (Greg) Hsu, Registration No. 61,007 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: May 23, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By  #61007
tr Paul C. Lewis
Registration No.: 43,368
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road
Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

Attachment: One (1) Replacement sheet